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MAJOR GENERAL CLAYTON LAWRENCE BISSELL

Clayton L. Bissell was born on July 29, 1896, at Kane, Pennsylvania. He was graduated from Valparaiso University, Indiana, in 1917, with a degree of Doctor of Laws. He enlisted in the Aviation Section, Signal Reserve, on August 15, 1917, and was commissioned a first lieutenant in the Aviation Section, Signal Reserve, on January 12, 1918. He was promoted to captain (temporary) on March 11, 1919. He was commissioned a first lieutenant in the Air Service, Regular Army, on July 1, 1920, and accepted that appointment on November 26, 1920.

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PROMOTIONS

He was promoted to captain on November 1, 1930; to major (temporary) on March 12, 1935; to major (permanent) on June 12, 1939; to lieutenant colonel (temporary) on November 16, 1940; to lieutenant colonel (permanent) on October 15, 1941; to colonel (temporary) on January 5, 1942; to brigadier general (temporary) on April 21, 1942; to major general (temporary) on March 13, 1943.

SERVICE

He began his aviation training at Mohawk, Canada, in September, 1917, and was subsequently stationed at Taliaferro Field, Texas, from November, 1917, to January, 1918. He sailed for England with the 22nd Aero Squadron, and received additional flying training at Salisbury Plains in England and aerial gunnery training in Scotland. He served in the Overseas Ferry Service before he was ordered to duty at the front with the 148th Aero Squadron in July, 1918. He served with that unit and with the 41st Aero Squadron until the armistice. He was credited officially with destroying five enemy planes, qualifying him as an ace.

He commanded the 638th American Fighter Squadron with the American Forces in Germany until May, 1919, when he returned to the United States. His first assignment in the United States was Kelly Field, Texas, where he organized and commanded the 27th Aero Squadron. In January, 1920, he became Education and Recreation Officer at Kelly Field, and commanded the Air Service Group.

He was ordered to Washington, D. C., in June, 1920, for service as chief of the Tactical Operations Section in the office of Chief of Air Service. In December, 1920, he went to Langley Field, Virginia, where he was graduated from the Air Service Field Officers' School in June, 1921. He remained at Langley Field as flight commander of the 14th Squadron. He then became an instructor in the Air Service Field Officers' School.

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In November, 1921, he was ordered to Washington for duty in the office of the Chief of the Air Service, as assistant to Brigadier General William Mitchell, serving in that capacity for four years. In January, 1924, he was detailed as advanced agent for the round-the-world flight in British Columbia, Alaska, the Aleutians, Greenland, Labrador, Newfoundland, and the Maritime Provinces. On return to Washington, he was transferred to Langley Air Force Base, Virginia, in December, 1924, to serve as Secretary of the Air Service Board.

He was an instructor at the Air Corps Tactical School at Langley AFB from September, 1926, to August, 1931, when he was assigned to the Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, as a student. He was graduated in June, 1933, and two months later was assigned to the Army War College at Washington, D. C. He was graduated in June, 1934, and then entered the Chemical Warfare School at Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland, in July, 1934, completing the course there a month later.

In October, 1934, he was stationed at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, as intelligence and operations officer of the 18th Pursuit Group, becoming commanding officer in October, 1937. In July, 1938, he went to the Naval War College at Newport, Rhode Island, and was graduated in 1939. In July, 1939, he became a member of the War Plans Division of the War Department General Staff at Washington, remaining on this duty until the beginning of World War II.

In January, 1942, he was assigned to duty in the Asiatic theater as principal aviation officer on Major General Stilwell's staff in China; in August, 1942, he assumed command of all American Air Forces in India, Burma, and China, and commanded all U. S. combat aviation in the theater. When the 14th Air Force was activated, he continued in command of the 10th Air Force in India and Burma. He returned to the United States in August, 1943.

A month later he became Assistant Chief of Air Staff for Intelligence at Air Force headquarters in Washington. In January, 1944, he was assigned to the office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence on the War Department General Staff, and served in that capacity during the last two years of World War II. He was the Army member of Joint Security Control and on the Joint Intelligence Committee and the U. S. Army member of the Combined Intelligence Committee. He also served as the Army head of psychological warfare and as head of the War Department historical program.

In May, 1946, he became Military Attache to Great Britain, and in October, 1948, returned to the United States, where he was assigned to the Officers' Pool at Bolling AFB, D. C.

General Bissell has been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, and Air Medal.

His foreign decorations include the British Distinguished Flying Cross, the Italian Order of the Crown (Royal Decree), Italian Croce de Guerra (Ministerial Decision), Polish Order of Polonia



Restituta, Commander's Cross, Chilean Order del Merito in the Grade of Gran Commander, and the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Degree of Honorary Commander.

E N D

Up-to-date as of 26 November 1948





P-12 - Maj. Gen. Clayton L. Bissell.

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